

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A multimodal polyethylene polymer comprising a low molecular weight ethylene homo-polymer fraction and a high molecular weight ethylene copolymer fraction, characterised in that:

- the low molecular weight fraction is present in an amount of 45 to 55% by weight;
- the high molecular weight fraction is present in an amount of 45 to 55% by weight;
- the multimodal polymer has a MFR₅ of greater than 0.10 g/10 min; and less than or equal to 0.22 g/10 min; and
- the multimodal polymer has a density of greater than or equal to 952 kg/m³.

2. (Original) A multimodal polyethylene polymer according to claim 1 wherein the low molecular weight fraction is present in an amount of 47 to 52% and the high molecular weight fraction in an amount of 48 to 53%.

3. (Currently Amended) A multimodal polyethylene polymer according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the polymer has a density of greater than or equal to 953 kg/m³.

4. (Currently Amended) A multimodal polyethylene polymer according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the polymer has a dynamic viscosity, at a shear stress of 2.7 kPa, of at least 300000 Pa s, preferably 350000 Pa s.

5. (Currently Amended) A multimodal polyethylene polymer according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the polymer has a shear thinning index of 70 or greater, ~~preferably 100 or greater~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A multimodal polyethylene polymer according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the co-monomer of the high molecular weight ethylene copolymer is a C₆ to C₁₂ alpha-olefin.

7. (Original) A multimodal polyethylene polymer according to claim 6 wherein the co-monomer is a C₈ to C₁₀ alpha-olefin.

8. (Currently Amended) A multimodal polyethylene polymer according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the ethylene homo-polymer has a MFR₂ of about 300 to 2000 g/10 min.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Canceled).

11. (New) In the method of forming a pipe or conduit from a polymeric material, the improvement comprising forming said pipe or conduit from the polymer composition of claim 1.

12. (New) Pipe or conduit formed from the composition of claim 1.

13. (New) A multimodal polyethylene polymer according to claim 2 wherein the polymer has a density of greater than or equal to 953 kg/m³.

14. (New) A multimodal polyethylene polymer according to claim 2 wherein the polymer has a dynamic viscosity, at a shear stress of 2.7 kPa, of at least 300000 Pa s, preferably 350000 Pa s.

15. (New) A multimodal polyethylene polymer according to claim 3 wherein the polymer has a dynamic viscosity, at a shear stress of 2.7 kPa, of at least 300000 Pa s, preferably 350000 Pa s.

16. (New) A multimodal polyethylene polymer according to claim 2 wherein the polymer has a shear thinning index of 70 or greater.

17. (New) A multimodal polyethylene polymer according to claim 3 wherein the polymer has a shear thinning index of 70 or greater.

18. (New) A multimodal polyethylene polymer according to claim 4 wherein the polymer has a shear thinning index of 70 or greater.

19. (New) A multimodal polyethylene polymer according to claim 1 wherein said shear thinning index is 100 or greater.

20. (New) A multimodal polyethylene polymer according to claim 2 wherein the co-monomer of the high molecular weight ethylene copolymer is a C₆ to C₁₂ alpha-olefin.

21. (New) A multimodal polyethylene polymer according to claim 3 wherein the co-monomer of the high molecular weight ethylene copolymer is a C₆ to C₁₂ alpha-olefin.

22. (New) A multimodal polyethylene polymer according to claim 4 wherein the co-monomer of the high molecular weight ethylene copolymer is a C₆ to C₁₂ alpha-olefin.